

REMARKS

Claims 1-23, 25-30, and 37-48 have been cancelled. Claims 24, 31-36, and 49-90 remain pending. A complete claim listing is provided above.

When the present application was filed on March 31, 2001, instructions were provided with the utility patent application transmittal properly canceling claims 1-23, 25-30, and 37-48. A preliminary amendment was filed on May 15, 2001, properly amending claims 24, 26, 31, 33-35 and adding new claims 49-90. The instructions in the utility patent application transmittal and the preliminary amendment were not entered. On October 2, 2003, an Office Action was sent directing the election/restriction of inventions between group I (including canceled claims 1-23 and 37-48) and group II (including claims 24-36 and 49-90, although claims 25-30 were previously cancelled). On November 24, 2003, Applicants were fully responsive and elected group I. However, in accordance with guidance provided during Examiner Interviews conducted on April 27-28, 2004, Applicants request consideration of previously withdrawn claims 24, 31-36, and 49-90, as claims 1-23, 25-30, and 37-48 were previously canceled.

Reconsideration of the application and allowance of pending claims 24, 31-36, and 49-90 are respectfully requested based on the preceding remarks. If at any time the Examiner believes that an interview would be helpful, please contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,



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